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CIA IN HIGH-TECH ANTI-SPY EFFORT
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The Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency are being enlisted in the government's attempt to cut off Japanese theft of technology in California's Silicon Valley, according to the official in charge.

U.S. Attorney Joseph Russoniello said the role of the CIA and DIA would be to supply information from inside Japan and other countries about where the technology may be used if it gets out of the United States.

Russoniello, in an interview with UPI, said plans for the "Critical Technology Task Force" to fight illegal export of high technology are ready. The unit will begin functioning as soon as funds are allocated by the administration.

The new force will include agents from the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Customs Service and Postal Service as well as the CIA and DIA, Russoniello said.

The core of the task-force will be seven assistant U.S. attorneys based in San Jose to coordinate activities among the various agencies and the U.S. high technology business community in the Silicon Valley and elsewhere.

Russoniello, chief U.S. attorney in San Francisco, said he is confident Attorney General William French Smith will approve the necessary funds for the task force.

If the budget does not include seven new attorneys, Russoniello said, his office will act on an "ad hoc basis" with his present staff in dealing with high technology industrial espionage until money becomes available.

The U.S. attorney said his staff is already deeply involved in the investigation.

Russoniello said he hopes to set up a computerized information bank on the high technology industry to keep track of what types of hardware and programming might be the target of foreign espionage efforts.

Cross-referencing data on classified and unclassified technology being developed here with information provided by the CIA and DIA on what the Soviet Union, for example, lacks, would help the task force keep an eye on companies that may be the targets for espionage, Russoniello said.

When a foreign company sought an export license for high-tech products, the CIA and DIA would be asked to determine whether the products are actually needed for legitimate activities of the foreign firm or might be destined for resale or an illegitimate purpose.

While he did not rule out the possibility of CIA agents pursuing high-technology espionage cases into the Silicon Valley on their own, he said "the whole idea of the task force is to coordinate investigative activities."

He expects if the CIA develops leads of its own in high technology espionage cases, it would work with the task force under Russoniello's control,